

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5322

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7191

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EFIN VS

SUBJECT: IDA REPLENISHMENT

FOR AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL
FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN

1. IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF IDA REPLENISHMENT THINK YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF A CONVERSATION THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF AID/SAIGON HAD WITH MILES COSTICK, A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF REPRESENTATIVE BLACKBURN OF THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE. COSTICK SAID THAT LAST YEAR HE HAD PERSONALLY LINED UP A LARGE NUMBER OF HOUSE MEMBERS AGAINST THE IDA LEGISLATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, THE BANK WOULD NEVER MAKE A LOAN TO VIETNAM BECAUSE IT WAS AT WAR. WE, OF COURSE, TRIED TO TELL COSTICK THAT WHILE WE STRONGLY FAVOR IBRD LOAN TO RVN IT SEEMED TO US THAT THIS WAS THE WRONG WAY OF GOING ABOUT IT.

2. WE PASS THE FOREGOING ON BECAUSE IT MAY BE USEFUL TO GET IN TOUCH WITH COSTICK, REPRESENTATIVE BLACKBURN, AND PERHAPS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE AND COORDINATE WITH THEM ACTION BEST DESIGNED TO GET HOUSE APPROVAL OF IDA REPLENISHMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME PUT PRESSURE ON IBRD TO BE MORE HELPFUL VIS-A-VIS VIETNAM.
MARTIN

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